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Dixon - An Address

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AN
ADDRESS

DELIVERED TO THE

From

BIRMINGHAM SCHOOL BOARD,

Oct. 1894

BY THE CHAIRMAN,

GEORGE DIXON, ESQ., M.P.,

DECEMBER 5TH, 1889.

Published by Order of the Birmingham School Board

BIRMINGHAM

W. JONES AND SON, TOWN HALL PRINTING OFFICE, EDMUND STREET.

1889

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AN
ADDRESS

DELIVERED TO THE

4784

Birmingham School Board

BY THE CHAIRMAN,

GEORGE DIXON, ESQ., M.P.,

DECEMBER 5th, 1889.



Published by Order of the Birmingham School Board.



BIRMINGHAM:

GEO. JONES AND SON, TOWN HALL PRINTING OFFICES, EDMUND STREET.

1889.

ADDRESS.

Since the interesting address of the Vice-Chairman of the Board, on the 4th of November, 1888, a contested election has caused the substitution of four new members of the Board for our old friends, Messrs. Greening, Haworth, Poulton, and Ingall.

The sudden and melancholy death of Mr. Greening should be a warning to us all to avoid overstrain in public work, in the interest of society as well as in our own.

The Elementary Education of the City continues to make satisfactory progress in all directions.

The accommodation in the Board Schools has been increased between the 30th of August, 1888, and the 30th of August, 1889, to the extent of 2,796 places, whilst in the Denominational and Efficient Private Schools there has been a decrease of no less than 1,293 places, leaving a net increase of total accommodation of 1,503 seats.*

School
Accommodatic
and
Attendance.

* The following are the details of the Alterations which have taken place in the Elementary School accommodation of the City between August 31st, 1888, and August 31st, 1889 :—

				Places.
Soho Road	(Board)	opened	October, 1888	... 962
Oakley Road	"	"	January, 1889	... 1,020
Cromwell Street	"	"	August, 1889	... 1,081
St. Mark's, Helena Street	(National),	increase of		... 71
				<hr/> 3,133 places
Benacre Street	(Board)	closed	... ..	266
St. Andrew's	(National)	"	... ..	510
St. Stephen's	"	"	... ..	355
St. John's (Roman Catholic)	"	"	... ..	368
Farm Street, Commercial	(Private)	closed	... ..	131
				<hr/>
				1,630 places
				<hr/>
Total increase				1,503 ,,

The average number of departments overcrowded, which in 1886 was 56, and in 1888, 49, has this year fallen to 34. This reduction in the number of overcrowded departments is very satisfactory, and will, I hope, continue until they altogether disappear.

Comparing the average attendance during the quarter ending August 30th, 1889, with that of the same quarter in 1888, there was an increase in the Board Schools of 1,115, and a decrease in the voluntary schools of 1,409.* The fever epidemic during the past summer materially diminished the attendance at school. †

The departments for boys and girls in the two new schools in Cromwell Street and Oakley Road, were full within two months from the date of opening.

The new school which is being built in Camden Street will be ready next spring, and the schools to be erected in Burbury Street and Upper Garrison Lane will probably be completed in about fifteen months. No steps have yet been taken towards the erection of schools on the sites in Winson Street, Inkerman Street, Aston Brook Street, and Muntz Street, beyond the consideration of the desirability of erecting thereon one or more Seventh Standard Schools.

* ACCOMMODATION :				Board Schools.	Denominational and Efficient Private Schools.		Total.
August 31st, 1888	...	...	...	38,832	...	28,520	67,352
August 31st, 1889	...	...	...	41,628	...	27,227	68,855
NUMBER OF CHILDREN ON THE BOOKS :							
During quarter ending Aug., 1888	...	...	...	44,524	...	28,743	73,267
During quarter ending Aug., 1889	...	...	...	46,482	...	27,385	73,867
AVERAGE ATTENDANCE :							
During quarter ending Aug., 1888	...	...	...	37,584	...	22,617	60,201
During quarter ending Aug., 1889	...	...	...	38,699	...	21,208	59,907

† The diminution in the voluntary schools was partly caused by the closing of St. Stephen's, St. Andrew's, and St. John's R.C. Schools, which accommodated a total of 1,233 children.

I hope that when our plans for these Seventh Standard Schools are matured, they will include provision for the Seventh Standard girls as well as Seventh Standard boys. It is found that the accommodation in existing schools is inadequate: there are not enough class-rooms for the Sixth and Seventh Standards; and that this is a growing difficulty will be seen from the following figures showing the increasing percentages of children in the higher Standards:—

Seventh
Standard
Schools.

					1880.	1888.
Percentage of children presented in Standards IV. to VII.					23·2%	43·6%
"	"	"	"	V. to VII.	8·2%	22·2%
"	"	"	"	VI. and VII.	2·2%	6·4%

These percentages do not include the ex-Seventh Standard boys in the Bridge Street School, numbering over 150, and there can not be any doubt whatever that when proper facilities are offered in various parts of the City, the number of ex-Standard VII. children, both boys and girls, will continually increase. The number of children seeking admission to the Grammar Schools of King Edward's Foundation, but unable to gain it, is very large; and the increase of efficient Board Schools has made the existence of middle-class private schools almost an impossibility. I think, therefore, that it is the duty of the Board to provide the education which their action and that of the Governors of the King Edward's Schools have rendered of impossible attainment in any other way.

The Standard of total exemption in Birmingham is the Fifth, whereas in London and other places it is the Sixth. Now, as children ought to pass the Fifth Standard before they are twelve years old, our compulsory powers expire at too early an age. I am one of those who think that children should not be allowed to leave school till they are

Standard of
Total
Exemption.

... boy to not leave till the age of ...
... therefore once upon he board the ...
... standard of total exemption from ...
... the first standard

... Government ...
... from 1881 to 1884 to 1887 to 1890 ...
... 1891

...
... the number of passes in science subjects has ...
... whilst the average percentages of passes in all ...
... subjects remain about the same as ...
... 1881

...
... during the past year 2,700 ... have been under ...
... in the practical ... classes in which ...
... for carrying the Government ... These classes ...
... by one ... and two assistant ...
... was 2700 and the receipts 2100 the net ...
... for the ... being 600. There are at present ...
... centres at the schools in Summer Lane, ...
... 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35, 36, 37, 38, 39, 40, 41, 42, 43, 44, 45, 46, 47, 48, 49, 50, 51, 52, 53, 54, 55, 56, 57, 58, 59, 60, 61, 62, 63, 64, 65, 66, 67, 68, 69, 70, 71, 72, 73, 74, 75, 76, 77, 78, 79, 80, 81, 82, 83, 84, 85, 86, 87, 88, 89, 90, 91, 92, 93, 94, 95, 96, 97, 98, 99, 100, 101, 102, 103, 104, 105, 106, 107, 108, 109, 110, 111, 112, 113, 114, 115, 116, 117, 118, 119, 120, 121, 122, 123, 124, 125, 126, 127, 128, 129, 130, 131, 132, 133, 134, 135, 136, 137, 138, 139, 140, 141, 142, 143, 144, 145, 146, 147, 148, 149, 150, 151, 152, 153, 154, 155, 156, 157, 158, 159, 160, 161, 162, 163, 164, 165, 166, 167, 168, 169, 170, 171, 172, 173, 174, 175, 176, 177, 178, 179, 180, 181, 182, 183, 184, 185, 186, 187, 188, 189, 190, 191, 192, 193, 194, 195, 196, 197, 198, 199, 200, 201, 202, 203, 204, 205, 206, 207, 208, 209, 210, 211, 212, 213, 214, 215, 216, 217, 218, 219, 220, 221, 222, 223, 224, 225, 226, 227, 228, 229, 230, 231, 232, 233, 234, 235, 236, 237, 238, 239, 240, 241, 242, 243, 244, 245, 246, 247, 248, 249, 250, 251, 252, 253, 254, 255, 256, 257, 258, 259, 260, 261, 262, 263, 264, 265, 266, 267, 268, 269, 270, 271, 272, 273, 274, 275, 276, 277, 278, 279, 280, 281, 282, 283, 284, 285, 286, 287, 288, 289, 290, 291, 292, 293, 294, 295, 296, 297, 298, 299, 300, 301, 302, 303, 304, 305, 306, 307, 308, 309, 310, 311, 312, 313, 314, 315, 316, 317, 318, 319, 320, 321, 322, 323, 324, 325, 326, 327, 328, 329, 330, 331, 332, 333, 334, 335, 336, 337, 338, 339, 340, 341, 342, 343, 344, 345, 346, 347, 348, 349, 350, 351, 352, 353, 354, 355, 356, 357, 358, 359, 360, 361, 362, 363, 364, 365, 366, 367, 368, 369, 370, 371, 372, 373, 374, 375, 376, 377, 378, 379, 380, 381, 382, 383, 384, 385, 386, 387, 388, 389, 390, 391, 392, 393, 394, 395, 396, 397, 398, 399, 400, 401, 402, 403, 404, 405, 406, 407, 408, 409, 410, 411, 412, 413, 414, 415, 416, 417, 418, 419, 420, 421, 422, 423, 424, 425, 426, 427, 428, 429, 430, 431, 432, 433, 434, 435, 436, 437, 438, 439, 440, 441, 442, 443, 444, 445, 446, 447, 448, 449, 450, 451, 452, 453, 454, 455, 456, 457, 458, 459, 460, 461, 462, 463, 464, 465, 466, 467, 468, 469, 470, 471, 472, 473, 474, 475, 476, 477, 478, 479, 480, 481, 482, 483, 484, 485, 486, 487, 488, 489, 490, 491, 492, 493, 494, 495, 496, 497, 498, 499, 500, 501, 502, 503, 504, 505, 506, 507, 508, 509, 510, 511, 512, 513, 514, 515, 516, 517, 518, 519, 520, 521, 522, 523, 524, 525, 526, 527, 528, 529, 530, 531, 532, 533, 534, 535, 536, 537, 538, 539, 540, 541, 542, 543, 544, 545, 546, 547, 548, 549, 550, 551, 552, 553, 554, 555, 556, 557, 558, 559, 560, 561, 562, 563, 564, 565, 566, 567, 568, 569, 570, 571, 572, 573, 574, 575, 576, 577, 578, 579, 580, 581, 582, 583, 584, 585, 586, 587, 588, 589, 590, 591, 592, 593, 594, 595, 596, 597, 598, 599, 600, 601, 602, 603, 604, 605, 606, 607, 608, 609, 610, 611, 612, 613, 614, 615, 616, 617, 618, 619, 620, 621, 622, 623, 624, 625, 626, 627, 628, 629, 630, 631, 632, 633, 634, 635, 636, 637, 638, 639, 640, 641, 642, 643, 644, 645, 646, 647, 648, 649, 650, 651, 652, 653, 654, 655, 656, 657, 658, 659, 660, 661, 662, 663, 664, 665, 666, 667, 668, 669, 670, 671, 672, 673, 674, 675, 676, 677, 678, 679, 680, 681, 682, 683, 684, 685, 686, 687, 688, 689, 690, 691, 692, 693, 694, 695, 696, 697, 698, 699, 700, 701, 702, 703, 704, 705, 706, 707, 708, 709, 710, 711, 712, 713, 714, 715, 716, 717, 718, 719, 720, 721, 722, 723, 724, 725, 726, 727, 728, 729, 730, 731, 732, 733, 734, 735, 736, 737, 738, 739, 740, 741, 742, 743, 744, 745, 746, 747, 748, 749, 750, 751, 752, 753, 754, 755, 756, 757, 758, 759, 760, 761, 762, 763, 764, 765, 766, 767, 768, 769, 770, 771, 772, 773, 774, 775, 776, 777, 778, 779, 780, 781, 782, 783, 784, 785, 786, 787, 788, 789, 790, 791, 792, 793, 794, 795, 796, 797, 798, 799, 800, 801, 802, 803, 804, 805, 806, 807, 808, 809, 810, 811, 812, 813, 814, 815, 816, 817, 818, 819, 820, 821, 822, 823, 824, 825, 826, 827, 828, 829, 830, 831, 832, 833, 834, 835, 836, 837, 838, 839, 840, 841, 842, 843, 844, 845, 846, 847, 848, 849, 850, 851, 852, 853, 854, 855, 856, 857, 858, 859, 860, 861, 862, 863, 864, 865, 866, 867, 868, 869, 870, 871, 872, 873, 874, 875, 876, 877, 878, 879, 880, 881, 882, 883, 884, 885, 886, 887, 888, 889, 890, 891, 892, 893, 894, 895, 896, 897, 898, 899, 900, 901, 902, 903, 904, 905, 906, 907, 908, 909, 910, 911, 912, 913, 914, 915, 916, 917, 918, 919, 920, 921, 922, 923, 924, 925, 926, 927, 928, 929, 930, 931, 932, 933, 934, 935, 936, 937, 938, 939, 940, 941, 942, 943, 944, 945, 946, 947, 948, 949, 950, 951, 952, 953, 954, 955, 956, 957, 958, 959, 960, 961, 962, 963, 964, 965, 966, 967, 968, 969, 970, 971, 972, 973, 974, 975, 976, 977, 978, 979, 980, 981, 982, 983, 984, 985, 986, 987, 988, 989, 990, 991, 992, 993, 994, 995, 996, 997, 998, 999, 1000

...
... The Bridge Street Seventh Standard School passed ...
... through the last May Examination of the Science and Art ...
... Department with great distinction: 8 boys gained honours, ...
... 5 in the first-class, and 3 in the second-class. The total ...
... number of pupils examined in the various stages of ...
... Chemistry, Applied Mechanics, Mathematics, Machine ...
... Construction and Drawing, and Practical Plane and Solid

Geometry, was 267. These worked a total of 688 papers, of which 321 were marked first-class, 276 second-class, and 91 as failures.*

Very great credit is due to Mr. Cox and his assistants for these remarkable successes.

The average attendance in the school was 276 in 1888, and 294 in 1889, and is expected to reach 320 in 1890. The charge on the Rates has risen from £2 2s. 8d. per scholar in average attendance to £2 18s. 8d. in consequence of expenses in connection with the teaching staff not likely to recur.

* Bridge Street Seventh Standard School.

SUMMARY OF RESULTS OBTAINED AT THE SCIENCE EXAMINATIONS HELD
IN MAY, 1889.

SUBJECT.	Stage.	First Class.	Second Class.	Failed.	No. presented
Theoretical Inorganic Chemistry ...	A.	4	22	11	37
" " " ...	E.	83	74	20	177
Practical Inorganic Chemistry ...	H.	4	1	—	5
" " " ...	A.	27	10	2	39
" " " ...	E.	60	5	3	68
Theoretical Organic Chemistry ...	E.	5	—	—	5
Practical Organic Chemistry ...	E.	9	1	—	10
Applied Mechanics	E.	22	20	2	44
Mathematics	I.	41	72	26	139
Machine Construction and Drawing...	A.	11	4	—	15
" " " ...	E.	40	27	3	70
Practical Plane and Solid Geometry	H.	1	2	4	7
" " " " ...	A.	9	16	11	36
" " " " ..	E.	5	22	9	36
Totals ...		321	276	91	688

Peripatetic
Science
Teaching.

The statistics of the peripatetic science teaching are as nearly as possible the same for the two years ending October 31st, 1888 and 1889. During the latter year, 2,550 boys in Standards V. and upwards received instruction in Mechanics, of whom 1,067 were presented for examination, and 638 passed; whilst 2,236 girls in Standards V. and upwards were instructed in Domestic Economy, 1,059 were presented for examination, and 718 passed.

Recreative
Evening
Classes.

The number of children in the Recreative Evening Classes presented for examination was 282 in 1889, against 219 in 1888, and the Government Grant obtained has increased from 9s. 4d. to 10s. 8½d. per scholar.*

The present season has commenced with a considerable increase of average attendance, and one of the four schools now in operation is entirely under the management of the Board.

* The following is a comparison of the results obtained during the Sessions of 1887-88 and 1888-89 respectively:—

				1887-88.	1888-89.
AVERAGE ATTENDANCE	...	...	Boys	177	186
			Girls	140	115
			Total	<u>317</u>	<u>301</u>
PRESENTED FOR EXAMINATION	...		Boys	140	175
			Girls	79	107
			Total	<u>219</u>	<u>282</u>
AVERAGE PERCENTAGE OF PASSES	...		Reading	93·1	97·2
			Writing	78·5	84·8
			Arithmetic	70·7	65·2
				s. d.	s. d.
Amount of Grant received per head	...	...	...	9 4	10 8½
Amount received from Fees	...	...	...	4 1¾	4 7¾
Cost to Rates per head	...	...	...	1 8¾	3 3¾

The number of cheap and free dinners supplied by the Cheap Dinner Committee last winter was 243,356, against 207,747 supplied the winter before. § It is to be hoped that the revival of trade will cause the demand to fall off during the next season. The total amount of contributions to the Cheap Dinner Fund was £584, including £153, raised by the Teachers of the Public Elementary Schools.

The Cheap
Dinner and
Boot Funds.

The sum collected for the Boot Fund was £229, and the number of boots distributed was 1,369 pairs, costing an average of about 3s. 4d. per pair. The principal contributions to this fund came from the lectures given by the Rev. Foster Pegg (£52), and by Councillor Lancaster (£19), and from a gift of £20, by the Messrs. Tangye Brothers.

The thanks of the School Board and of the ratepayers are due to the teachers and visiting officers who have laboured so efficiently in the cheap dinner and boot movements: it is not merely the children who are benefitted by this good work, the ratepayers also gain by the increased grants earned by the children who are thus better fed and better clothed.

The number of Penny Banks has increased from 77 to 80, and of depositors from 8,537 to 8,712. The average amount due to each depositor has increased from 2s. 6½d. to 2s. 9d.

Penny
Banks.

The Free Orders issued have decreased from 10,833 in 1888 to 8,912 in 1889, and the amount of school fees received per child has increased from 5s. 3½d. to 5s. 5¾d.

School Fees.

§ NUMBER OF CHEAP DINNER TICKETS SOLD.

Year.	Sold.	Free.	Total.
1885-6	65,957	93,000	158,957
1886-7	79,635	276,845	356,480
1887-8	49,572	158,175	207,747
1888-9	28,441	214,915	243,356

During the past year the fees in some of the Board Schools have been reduced from 3d. to 1d., and the effect of that reduction has been that the regularity of attendance has been greater, the difficulty of collecting the fees has been diminished, and the number of Free Orders has been reduced. The penny schools are, of course, situated in the poorest districts, but the consequence of the lower fee is that the attendance in them is nearly, if not quite, as good as in the threepenny schools, which are situated in the best districts.

When we take into consideration that the penny fee is more regularly paid by the poor children and that the improved attendance leads to higher Government Grants, we are justified in the conclusion that the reduced fee carries with it but little, if any, additional burden to the ratepayers.*

Finance.

By dividing the amount of the Precept by the number of children in average attendance we arrive at an approximate estimate of the cost per child to the ratepayers of

* The following Table, compiled from recent returns, shows the percentage of attendances made by scholars (1.) scholars who pay fees regularly, (2.) scholars who pay irregularly, and (3.) scholars whose fees are remitted :—

PERCENTAGES OF ATTENDANCE.				
		Boys.	Girls.	Infants.
1. Regular payers	...	87%	84%	85%
2. Irregular payers	...	77%	73%	73%
3. Free Order Scholars	...	84%	79%	85%

The following Table gives a comparison between the percentage of attendance at penny schools, and at those schools in which threepence is charged for boys and girls :—

PERCENTAGES OF ATTENDANCE.						
		Boys.		Girls.		Infants.
		Penny Schools.	Threepenny Schools.	Penny Schools.	Threepenny Schools.	Penny Schools.
1. Regular payers	...	87%	87%	82%	85%	86%
2. Irregular payers	...	75%	78%	72%	74%	72%
3. Free Order Scholars	...	84%	84%	78%	81%	85%

the children in the Board Schools. I say "approximate" because the Precept includes the amount due on account of part repayment of capital on the loans obtained for the erection of the school buildings, and also covers the cost of compulsion for the Voluntary as well as for the Board Schools.

The approximate average expenditure per child in the Board Schools during the fifteen years ending 1888 was £1 15s. 4d., and for the year ending August 30th, 1889, was £1 16s. 11d. When the continually developing improvements in the character of the education given in the Board Schools are borne in mind, this increased cost does not seem to be disproportioned to the added value of the work done. Of the £1 16s. 11d. for the current year, 13s. 9d. represents interest on and repayment of loans, and £1 3s. 2d. represents school maintenance and the cost of compulsion, and of the official staff of the Board.

The Precept for 1888 was 8 $\frac{3}{10}$ d. in the pound, and for 1889, 9 $\frac{4}{10}$ d. in the pound. There is good ground for hoping that the annual increase of the Precept during the next three years will not much exceed half of that of the last three years, if we exclude from our consideration new items of expenditure, and take only into account those resulting from the expected increase in the number of Board Schools.

I have had two very interesting Tables drawn up, one of which shows that the proportion of children of the younger ages is diminishing in the Board Schools, whilst the proportion of children of the older ages is increasing. Comparing the year 1883 with the year 1888, the percentage of children below the age of six has fallen from 17·3 to 14·23, or 3 per cent.; between the ages of six and nine the percentages have remained the same; between the ages of

Ages and
Attainments
of the
Children.

nine and twelve the percentages have risen from 34·4 to 40, or $5\frac{1}{2}$ per cent.; whilst above the age of twelve there has been no change. The other Table shows that the proportion of children of ages, above that proper for the Standards they are examined in, has considerably diminished. The percentage of children over eleven years of age who were presented in Standard IV. has fallen from 18 per cent. to 10 per cent.; of children presented in Standard III., over ten years of age, from $15\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. to $8\frac{1}{2}$ per cent.; and of children in Standard II., over nine years of age, from 10 per cent. to $5\frac{1}{2}$ per cent.; the diminution in all the three Standards being from $43\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. to 24 per cent.

Hire of
Rooms.

The amount received for the hire of rooms was £1,363 last year, against £1,070 in the preceding year.

Sunday Schools
and Religious
Teaching.

The number of Sunday morning classes and of Sunday schools is now 58. The extent to which the Board Schools are used as Sunday schools in the Small Heath district is very encouraging indeed to those who value the religious instruction therein given. The number of children on the books of the Small Heath Sunday schools, carried on in Board Schools, is 47 per cent. of the number on the books in all the elementary day schools of the district; whereas the proportion in the rest of the City is only $14\frac{1}{2}$ per cent.*

* Statistics *re* Sunday Schools held in Board School Buildings.

	Small Heath District.		Whole City (exclusive of Small Heath).
1. Number of children on the books of Board Schools	6,560	...	39,900
2. Number of children on the books of Sunday Schools held in Board Schools	3,100 (about)	...	5,800 (about)
3. Percentage of scholars on the books of Sunday Schools held in Board Schools to the number of children on the books of Board Schools ...	47·2%	...	14·5%

Thus there is everywhere abundant facility for the extension of Sunday school work, without the necessity for any expenditure upon buildings, and at a minimum of rent.

The information I have been able to collect leads me to the conclusion that the number of children on the books of all the Sunday schools in this City is only about one-half the number of those on the books of the day schools. It is frequently urged that the fact that all our children do not pass through the Sunday school is a conclusive argument in favour of religious instruction being given in the day school. But the conclusion I would rather draw from the imperfect development of our Sunday schools is that we have not yet risen to the full appreciation of their value; that we do not yet recognize that it is to them that we must mainly look for the religious training of our children.

The following remarks of Mr. Illingworth, a Member of the Victorian Legislative Council, made last month on the Education Report of the Colony for the present year, are well worth the consideration both of Churchmen and of Nonconformists :—

“The Sunday schools now contain as many pupils as the State schools, and devote more time to religious teaching than could possibly be given to it in the public schools. The Sunday school teachers, moreover, have a free hand, whereas a State school teacher, giving religious instruction, would be trammelled on all hands, and such religious instruction as he could give would necessarily be of a vague and unsatisfactory character. The religious lessons in the New South Wales schools are of this formal nature, and while valueless for the purpose for which they are intended, the fact of their being

given has prevented the parents and the churches from organizing an effective Sunday school system."

Although Sunday schools form no part of the work of the School Board, I trust that I shall not be misrepresenting the views of any of my colleagues in saying that we shall be glad to afford every facility for their development, and that we value most highly the results they are calculated to produce.

It will be in the recollection of some members of the Board that when the secular party gained the ascendancy in the year 1873, a Resolution was passed permitting religious instruction to be given in the Board Schools, by voluntary agency during three-quarters of an hour on Tuesday and Friday mornings in every week, on payment of a rent for the use of the rooms. This religious teaching was given during many years by the Birmingham Religious Education Society, but the Church of England did not favour the movement, and the number of Nonconformist Teachers was insufficient to cope with the magnitude of the work undertaken. At the beginning of this year Mr. Alderman Manton and the Rev. W. F. Clarkson originated a new movement on somewhat different lines: instead of dividing each school into small classes, requiring a large number of teachers, all the Standard children are assembled for half an hour in one room, on Tuesday mornings; a portion of the Bible is read and explained, hymns are sung by the children, and the service concludes with a short prayer. It has been a source of great satisfaction to me to learn that seven of the clergy of the Church of England have joined in this movement, which so far has been eminently successful, and I trust that enthusiasm for the work will so

increase that it may next year be found practicable to give religious instruction on two days of the week, instead of on one only.

There are grave reasons why members of the Church of England ought zealously to assist this scheme for giving religious instruction in the Board Schools. Out of 60,000 children in average attendance in the public elementary schools of the City, nearly 40,000 are in Board Schools, and whilst the number in average attendance in the voluntary schools has decreased during the last four years at the rate of 350 per annum, the number in the Board Schools has increased by nearly 1,500 per annum. Now these 40,000 children are not merely parishioners of the fifty beneficed clergymen of the City, but they belong to that section of the parishioners which has the greatest claim upon them; and although it is quite true that the burden and responsibility of the Church Schools are on the shoulders of the clergy, still the claims of the Board School children cannot be overlooked. I would earnestly urge all the lay and clerical leaders of every denomination to join this Association, and to seek to strengthen and to develop it. To me, the religious instruction now being given by it seems to be admirable, but the experience of earnest men may, no doubt, improve and develop it, until it produces results that will satisfy the reasonable aspirations of the churches. But this question is becoming more important every year on another ground. There are some, no doubt, who still say that the secular education given in the voluntary schools is equal to that which is given in the Board Schools, but I venture to think that that is not the opinion of the members of the Church Party on this Board, and I have no hesitation in saying, further, that however superior the secular education now given in

our Board Schools may be, that superiority must necessarily increase year by year, in consequence of the greater financial resources behind them; and this great fact leads up to the questions: how long will the parents of the children in the voluntary schools remain contented with the inferior secular education their children are receiving there? and how long will the ratepayers continue to object, if indeed they do object even now, to the extension of Board Schools to a degree which will lead to the necessary closing of the voluntary schools? Exactly when this period will arrive no one knows; but that it will come, sooner or later, I have not the shadow of a doubt; and, with such a prospect before us, is there not an imperative duty thrown upon all those who value religious instruction to join this Association, and seek to build up such a system as will train our Board School children in the knowledge and love of the Bible, without wounding the susceptibilities of any class of religionists?

The
New Code.

The Education Code which was laid on the table of the House of Commons last Session, and subsequently withdrawn, dealt with two questions in which this Board has taken great interest. It permitted scholars in night schools, who had passed the Fifth Standard to study and obtain grants for specific subjects, without doing Standard work, and it also gave facilities for the establishment of Day Training Colleges. As these provisions will, no doubt, be introduced into the Code which will be submitted to Parliament next year, it will be desirable that the members of the Board should consider in anticipation how best they can be carried into effect in Birmingham.

The establishment of a Day Training College will involve at least three points which will require grave consideration:—Firstly, the formation of a managing body

outside the School Board, on whose members will rest considerable financial responsibilities. Secondly, the introduction into the college of a class of students able to bear the cost of a portion of their maintenance during their continuance in the college. And thirdly, provisions for retaining as long as possible in the service of the Board all the students who pass successfully through their college course.

It may be a generation, or even more than that, before we attain to the German level, and have none but trained teachers in our schools; but, nevertheless, it is our duty to advance in that direction as rapidly as possible, and so to educate the country as to create the conviction that the expenditure involved will be more than repaid by the improved education of our children. I do not forget that the cost of training will not be the only additional charge on the community; a still larger one will be the higher salaries which these trained teachers will demand, and be entitled to receive.

There are now in the Board Schools of our City 413 adult teachers, and the proportion of those who have had college training is as follows:—

Training of
Teachers.

Head Masters	...	...	...	88	per cent.
Assistant „	...	...	...	50	„
Head Mistresses	...	...	...	42½	„
Assistant „	...	..	only	5	„

The question we have to ask ourselves is, ought not all elementary teachers to be trained? and I answer unhesitatingly in the affirmative. The fact that the school life of elementary school children is so short makes it all the more necessary that the teaching given should be the most effective that can be procured.

Pupil Teachers.

I am glad to be able to report that the number of pupil teachers who have received some education in the King Edward's Grammar Schools is steadily increasing.* Of 83 candidate pupil teachers presented for examination in October last, more than half had been in King Edward's Grammar Schools. I regret, however, that so large a proportion as two-thirds should be applicants for apprenticeship for the full term of four years, because the inference I draw from this fact is that they are too young to have gone through the full Grammar School course; had they done so, and left school at the age of sixteen or over, then a higher general culture would have been attained, and a two years' term of apprenticeship would have sufficed.

* CANDIDATE PUPIL TEACHERS PRESENTED FOR EXAMINATION IN
OCTOBER, 1888 AND 1889.

Term of Apprenticeship.	Educated at King Edward's Schools.		Educated at other Grammar or Secondary Schools.		Educated at Public Elementary Schools.		Educated at Private Schools.		Total Presented.	
	1888.	1889.	1888.	1889.	1888.	1889.	1888.	1889.	1888.	1889.
BOYS.										
Four years ...	2	2	—	—	1	2	1	—	4	4
Three „ ...	2	2	—	2	1	—	1	—	4	4
Two „ ...	5	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	5	2
GIRLS.										
Four years ...	6	27	—	—	21	26	2	3	29	56
Three „ ...	13	10	—	—	1	4	1	2	15	16
Two „ ...	4	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	5	1
Totals	32	44	—	2	25	32	5	5	62	83

I have to congratulate the Board on the remarkable results of the last Queen's Scholarship Examination. Of 22 boys examined, no less than 15 came out in the first class, and only one failed; of 60 girls examined, 29 came out in the first class, and eight failed. More than half of these pupil teachers have been in the King Edward's Schools.*

Queen's
Scholarship
Examination.

The Higher Education Fund is now almost exhausted, and it is therefore my duty to appeal to the friends of higher education to make further contributions to it. The

Higher
Education
Fund.

* QUEEN'S SCHOLARSHIP EXAMINATION, 1889.

School or Place of Education.	1st.	2nd.	3rd.	Failed.	Total.
BOYS.					
King Edward's Schools	7	4	—	—	11
Middle Class Private Schools ...	2	—	—	—	2
Board Schools	5	—	—	—	5
Voluntary Schools	1	2	—	1	4
Totals ...	15	6	—	1	22
GIRLS.					
King Edward's Schools	16	7	—	2	25
Middle Class Private Schools ...	3	1	—	1	5
Board Schools	9	12	2	5	28
Voluntary Schools	1	1	—	—	2
Totals ...	29	21	2	8	60

